

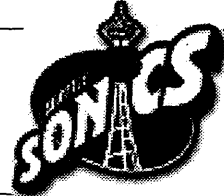
In this week's  
**Accent section:**

- Famous fable, pg. 5 and...
- Cool cantinas, pg. 7

# CINCO de MAYO

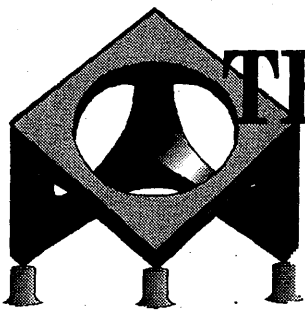
ACCENT, 6-7

PLAYOFFS: Sonics  
struggle in opening  
round — again  
SPORTS, 8



Friday,  
May 2, 1997

Volume 100  
Issue 9



# THE WESTERN FRONT

Western Washington University

Bellingham, Washington

## AS opposed to Cage closure

By Amy Christiansen  
The Western Front

The lower weight room in Carver Gymnasium, known as "the Cage," remains closed despite a new resolution drafted by the Associated Students that clearly states the AS stands opposed to the renovation of the facility until appropriate student input has been sought through the university governance process.

The resolution was passed during the AS Board of Directors meeting 6 p.m. Wednesday in Viking Union 480.

According to the AS, appropriate governance processes were not taken by the university in making the decision to expand the Lou Parberry Fitness Center and close the lower weight room facility.

"(The department) should have gone through the proper procedures and at least the proper athletic and Recreation Committee charges or come talk to us, get some input, have some forums," said Vice President for Student Life J.P. Elliott. "It was sort of a

rash decision, I feel, to go that far without getting any input."

Neither the AS nor Campus Recreation, who shared the Cage space with PEHR and the athletic department, were informed that the renovations were to begin or that the Cage was to become part of Parberry until renovations were already underway.

The lower weight room, previously a free facility frequented by nearly 60 students per day, is being remodeled to become an extension of Parberry, which requires a \$32.34 per quarter fee. The renovation is funded by grants approved for use by the Physical Education, Health and Recreation department.

PEHR Chairperson Kathleen Knutzen explained that priority for space in Carver is supposed to be given to the PEHR department, followed by athletics, Campus Recreation and finally, AS programs and clubs.

"If changes were made to a chemistry lab or a classroom, would AS review usage of that

See Cage, page 4

## Waterfront groovin'



Front/Aaron Dahl

The Sunrise Steel Drum Band from Sunrise Elementary in Kent jams to the sounds of the samba in Squalicum Park Thursday. Earlier, they played for Western students in Red Square.

## Seven grievances filed in election

By Meredith Lofberg  
The Western Front

More grievances have been lodged between three candidates for Vice President for External Affairs.

Alfonso Marsh, Genevieve

Panush and Jesse Salomon each filed at least two grievances against each other within the last four days.

After almost two hours of testimony and deliberation, the committee came back empty-handed. It will have its conclusions by 2

p.m. today. The first grievance heard was by Salomon against Marsh and Panush. Salomon told the committee that he heard Panush and Marsh had made a pact prior to the elections. In the event that one of them was in a runoff, the other would tell voters to vote for the other. Salomon said he believed that this was in violation of the code's spirit.

Marsh responded by saying, "This is news to me."

The second grievance, filed by Marsh against Salomon, claimed Salomon broke an agreement to end campaigning at 6 p.m. Marsh's friend witnessed Salomon breaking the agreement and campaigning until the polls closed at 7 p.m.

Salomon realized that he didn't want to be held to the agreement and yelled across Red Square "I'm not guaranteeing I'm leaving at six." Marsh said he didn't hear Salomon.

The third grievance was made by Panush against Salomon. She brought attention to his posting of campaign materials in Delta, stating it was in clear violation of the election code.

The sign had been taken down on April 18th, but Panush said she had not heard about the incident until Tuesday. "I know I was far behind, but this is something that takes votes away," she said.

Salomon said the flier was at Delta for less than 24 hours and hadn't realized that it was against the election code.

Salomon's second grievance claimed that Marsh bribed voters by handing out candy with his campaign materials. He claimed some voters may have taken it as Western endorsing Marsh. Marsh replied by saying, "Morally, I saw nothing wrong with passing out candy."

In Salomon's third grievance against Marsh, he took issue that Marsh at one time had eight banners up around campus instead of the seven allotted in the election

code.

Marsh admitted that he had mistakenly put up too many posters. He claimed he took the extra banner down once he realized his error and apologized to Salomon.

Panush dropped her second grievance before it had a chance to be heard.

The last complaint was lodged against Salomon by Marsh, who claimed that Salomon had misrepresented himself by saying he was endorsed by Mayor Norm Rice's chief of staff. After investigating, Marsh found no such office exists.

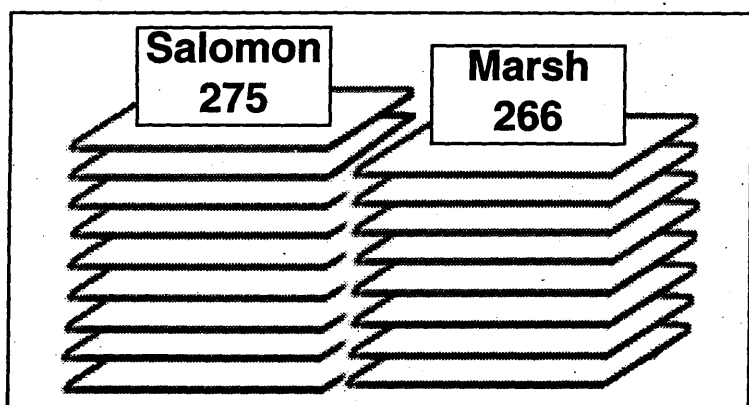
Salomon claimed that his endorser, Jim Hammond, told him that his official title of special assistant and chief of staff were interchangeable.

Any candidate proven to have given false information can be disqualified.

Marsh and Salomon declined to give further comment until the committee announces its decisions.

### ELECTION RUNOFF RESULTS

In a runoff election to fill the position of VP for External Affairs Jesse Salomon narrowly defeated Alfonso Marsh III by nine votes.



Source: ASWWU Board of Directors

Front/Vince Verhei

# COPIES BOX

## Campus Police

**April 28, 1:05 a.m.:** A foosball table was found in the dirt between parking lot 6G and the Viking Union service road. The undamaged table was returned to the Mathes game room. Campus police have no suspects in this incident.

**April 28, 4:40 p.m.:** Western's grounds supervisor reported a Gamma sign missing. The sign posts were still intact. An area resident said they thought the sign was intact as of Friday night and was missing by Sunday night.

**April 28, 5:00 p.m.:** A musical instrument on loan from the music department was reported stolen. It has reportedly been returned to the lender.

**April 28, 8:57 p.m.:** A victim called in to report a harassing phone call that was left on her voicemail that weekend.

## Bellingham Police

**April 29, 8:40 p.m.:** Police responded to help paramedics in the 100 block of McLeod Street who were having trouble with an intoxicated woman. The woman was in no condition to care for the two small children with her. Police could not locate the man who had been seen with the woman earlier. Someone was called and came to retrieve the children.

**April 29, 8:46 p.m.:** A suspect used a stolen and forged credit card to make a purchase at Bellis Fair Mall. The suspect attempted to make another purchase, then fled on foot.

**April 29, 10:48 p.m.:** Police responded to a person in the 2800 block of West Maplewood Street who reported that their roommate was attempting to commit suicide.

**April 30, 12:41 a.m.:** Police transported a woman from North State and Cedar Streets to the St. Joseph Hospital Emergency Room, where she was treated for a drug overdose.

**April 30, 7:07 a.m.:** A citizen went to work at a business at B and Holly Streets, and found that someone had taken cash from a donation box after into the business.

**April 30, 9:35 a.m.:** Police arrested a missing juvenile from Wenatchee for driving without a valid license after the juvenile crashed into a tree and a parked van at the corner of Vallette and West Oregon Streets. The juvenile and a companion were turned over to Northwest Youth Services to wait for their parents to retrieve them.

**April 30, 10:05 p.m.:** Police transported an intoxicated man causing a disturbance at the intersection of Broadway and Girard Streets to detox.

*Cops Box compiled by Meredith Lofberg*

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 Western Washington University  
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## Western Briefs

### Western issues of diversity will be discussed Saturday

The Peace Resource Center will be presenting an open mic and discussion from 3 to 5 p.m. Saturday May 3 in Red Square. For more information contact Jo Anderson at 650-7613.

### Stories from Hawaii: speaker tells of childhood

Hui 'O Hawai'i presents storyteller Makia Malo at 7 p.m. today in the Fairhaven Auditorium. Malo will be telling stories of growing up in the Hansen's disease community of Kalaupapa, Molokai.

### Three Vs last on list in Turning Points lectures

"Visual, Vocals & Verbals: The 3 Vs for More Effective Communication" with Associate Professor of Education Robert W. Keiper is the final 1996-97 Western's "Turning Points" lectures and will take place at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday May 6 in the Old Main Theatre. The "Turning Points" series is free and open to the public.

### Photo exhibit displays Whatcom County history

The Whatcom Museum of History and Art will present "Whatcom Views: Then and Now" from May 3 through Aug. 24 in the first floor galleries in the museum's main building, 121 Prospect St.

Local photographer Ron DelPozo and Archives Research

Assistant Jeff Jewell will curate the exhibit consisting of approximately 50 historic scenes in Whatcom County paired with 50 contemporary counterparts.

The views include buildings, streetscapes, interiors, houses, schools, transportation and scenes, and will provide intriguing comparisons through both dramatic change and resilience of tradition.

### Women's studies seeking scholarship candidates

A \$750 tuition and fee waiver is being offered by the Women's Studies Program for the 1997-98 academic year. Applicants must be minors, majors or concentrations in the program.

In addition, they must demonstrate knowledge of and passion for women's studies and must have exceptional academic standing.

Transcripts, two letters of recommendation from women's studies faculty, a personal statement, a writing sample and an application must be submitted by 5 p.m. Friday May 16 in Miller Hall 177.

Details and applications are available in Miller 177. For more information call 650-3534.

### Upcoming presentations

\* "The Firebugs," written by Max Frisch and directed by student Kristina Sutherland, will be presented by the Theatre Arts Department, 7:30 p.m. May 1-3 in the Old Main Theatre. The performance is free.

\* The Performing Arts Center Series presents Jorge Caballero, winner of the 1996 Naumberg International Guitar Competition, at 8 p.m. May 2 on the mainstage of the Performing Arts Center. Admission is \$18 general, \$16 senior and \$8 for students.

\* MEChA presents a Cinco de Mayo Dance at 9 p.m. Saturday May 3 in the Viking Union Main Lounge.

\* "Voices from the Inside," the AS Womens Center and Social Issues host filmmaker Karina Epperlein at 6:30 p.m. Monday May 5 in the Viking Union Main Lounge. The film about women in prison is free to the public.

\* The College of Fine and Performing Arts sponsors expressionist painter Brain Maguire who will discuss the influence of life in his war-torn homeland of Northern Ireland at 7:30 p.m. Monday, May 5 in Fraser Hall 2. The speech is free to the public. Maguire's paintings will be on exhibit from May 2-11 at the Lucia Douglas Gallery, 1415 13th St. in Fairhaven.

\* The Biology department presents a seminar with Chris Wojcik at 4 p.m. Monday May 5 in Biology Building 212. The seminar is free, and refreshments will be served at 3:50 p.m.

\* The International Development Series presents a seminar on biodiversity conservation in third-world countries at 12:15 p.m. Tuesday May 6 in the Shalom Center. The lecture is free and open to the public.

*Briefs compiled by Meredith Lofberg*

## WWU Official Announcements

*Deadline for announcements in this space is noon Friday for the Tuesday edition and noon Wednesday for the Friday edition. Announcements should be limited to 50 words, typewritten or legibly printed, and sent through campus mail to "Official Announcements," MS-9117, fax 7287, or taken in person to Commissary 113A. DO NOT ADDRESS ANNOUNCEMENTS DIRECTLY TO THE WESTERN FRONT. Phoned announcements will not be accepted. All announcements should be signed by originator.*

PLEASE POST

**ADD CODES ARE REQUIRED FOR SEVERAL SUMMER AND FALL BIOLOGY COURSES.** Request forms, available outside BI 315, must be returned to the appropriate instructor's mailbox no later than May 2. Codes may be picked up May 20 and 21.

**LOT RESERVATIONS:** • Lots 11G, 14G and 25G are reserved starting at 5 p.m. today (Friday, May 2) for the elderly, people with disabilities and Friends of the PAC ticket holders attending the Jorge Caballero performance. A shuttle will run from lot 26C. Lots 6G, 9V and 19G will be held for students, staff and faculty who are not attending the event. • Lots 6G and 9V will be reserved starting at 7 a.m. Saturday, May 3, for those attending the Awards for Professional Excellence presentations.

**LOT RESERVATIONS NEXT WEEK:** Lots 11G, 14G and 25G are reserved starting 5 p.m. May 6, for those attending the Turning Points lecture. Lots 6G, 9V and 19G will be held for students, staff and faculty not attending this event. A shuttle will run from lot 26C.

**STUDENT PARKING PERMIT APPLICATIONS** for 1997-98 are available at the Parking and Transportation Services office. Students who are out of town may call 650-2945 to request that an application be mailed. Applications are due by July 31.

**TODAY (FRIDAY, MAY 2) IS THE LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW FROM WESTERN WITH A HALF REFUND.** The process is completed in the Registrar's Office, OM 230.

**REGISTRATION IS NOT REQUIRED FOR THE MATH PLACEMENT TEST.** A \$10 fee must be paid in exact amount at time of testing. Photo ID and No. 2 pencil required. Allow 90 minutes. Testing is in OM 120 at 9 a.m. Test dates are May 5, 8, 12, 15, 19, 22, 29d 19, June 2 and 9. Thursday test dates are May 8, 15, 22, 29 and June 12.

**REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED IN OM 120 OR BY CALLING X/3080 FOR THE MILLER ANALOGIES TEST (MAT).** The test is scheduled for 3 p.m. on May 12 in FR 4. A \$35 fee is payable at time of testing. Allow 1½ hours.

**LEGISLATIVE INTERNS WILL HOLD AN INFORMATIONAL MEETING** from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. May 13 in AH 419 for interested faculty and students. Students spend winter quarter in Olympia. Qualified undergraduates in all disciplines are eligible with at least junior standing and a minimum GPA of 2.75. For an application, due by May 16, stop by AH 415.

**DIRECTORY ADVERTISING SALESPERSON NEEDED.** Sell ads to businesses for the 1997-98 *Campus Directory*. Must be available through fall quarter, including summer break. Must have own transportation and telephone. Voice mail or answering machine access preferred. Salary: \$6 to \$8 per hour plus mileage. Contact Margaret Loudon, X/3914, for appointment.

**SEVERAL JOB SEARCH AND CAREER WORKSHOPS ARE SCHEDULED** throughout spring quarter at the Career Services Center. Contact the Career Services Center, X/3240, OM 280, for more information.

### On-campus recruiting

*Signups for on-campus interviews are required in Old Main 280. Additional information on many positions is available in the career library and/or signup folders. For more information, contact the Career Services Center, OM 280, X/3240.*

- **U.S. Marine Corps Officers Program**, May 5 and 6. Representatives available in VU Lobby from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Information only format.
- **Campaign to Save the Environment**, May 6 and 7. Information available in VU Lobby, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- **Puyallup School District**, Tuesday, May 6. Information session, 9 a.m., OM 280, followed by individual interviews. Submit resumé at signup.
- **Federal Way School District**, Wednesday, May 7. Submit resumé in OM 280 at signup for interview.
- **Children's World Learning Centers**, Wednesday, May 7. Submit resumé at signup in OM 280.
- **Northwest Arctic Borough School District**, Wednesday, May 7. Applications, district information available in OM 280.
- **Northshore School District**, Thursday, May 8, 3:30 p.m., OM 280. Submit resumé at signup. The district has asked for placement files also, and applications will be available.

# AP news from around the globe

## Regional

### Boeing given contract to study missile system

SEATTLE — Boeing has been awarded an \$8 million government contract to draw up plans for a national missile defense system.

Boeing said the study contract could lead to the company's selection as the lead designer of parts of the proposed missile system.

Boeing's concept of the missile defense system will compete against other proposals.

The Boeing systems development center in Seal Beach, Calif. is heading work on the study contract.

### Gun initiative to require trigger locks, training

SEATTLE — Supporters of an initiative to require safety training for handgun purchasers say they have raised \$100,000 for the campaign.

Initiative 676 would require a handgun safety license that would be issued to those completing safety classes. It would also require any handgun given or sold to be equipped with a trigger-locking device.

The aim of the initiative is to stem the number of accidental handgun deaths, especially children.

Similar measures have been defeated in the state legislature, so supporters are taking the issue to voters directly.

The initiative needs 250,000 signatures by July 3 to ensure it a place on the Nov. 4 statewide ballot.

### Deep snow delays opening of North Cascades roads

OLYMPIA — Deep snow in the Cascades means the North Cascades Highway and Chinook Pass will be late in opening to traffic this year.

The state department of Transportation said State Route 20 over the North Cascades, closed last Nov. 19, is expected to open May 8, which would be the third-latest opening date for the highway.

Chinook Pass, on the eastside of Mount Rainier, is not expected to open until mid or late June.

As much as 60 feet of snow is blocking the roadway at Chinook. Crews are working to clear the snow on the road from both sides of the pass.

### NRA to meet in Seattle

SEATTLE — Nearly 20,000 members of the National Rifle Association are in Seattle for the annual convention that begins today.

The big guns are expected to come out during a leadership battle at a two-day board meeting that begins May 5. A group led by the NRA's former top lobbyist Neal Cox is trying to topple NRA President Marion Hammer and Executive Wayne Lapiere.

NRA membership is down from a peak of 3.5 million members in late 1994 to 2.8 million.

## National

### Coach fired for giving little leaguer pat on rear

BRISTOL, Conn. — You can do it in the majors, but you can't do it in little league.

A dad in Bristol, Conn. says he's been banned from the dugout for giving a player on his son's team a congratulatory pat on the backside.

The man had volunteered to help coach the team, but when the boy's parents complained, he was given the boot out of the dugout.

The man has been coaching for about 10 years and says his pat was a gesture of good friendship. He says he is offended that someone thinks he was touching kids in a funny way.

### North Dakota residents now sorting through debris

NORTH DAKOTA — With the Red River flood fury now hammering the Canadian province of Manitoba, parts of North Dakota and Minnesota are dealing with its aftermath.

Ten percent of the homes in Grand Forks, N.D. and neighboring East Grand Forks, Minn. are considered destroyed. The Red Cross says that figure could double when the damage assessment is completed.

Evacuees whose homes are still standing are finding them filled with debris. One man described his neighborhood as a "war zone."

Daycare is another major problem. The Red River flood shut down every childcare center in Grand Forks. Parents heading back to work have been scrambling to find a place to leave their children.

## International

### Russian May Day features pro-labor demonstrations

MOSCOW — Traditional May Day celebrations in Russia were matched by demonstrations of anti-government sentiment.

Thousands of protesters marched through Moscow blasting the government and calling for President Boris Yeltsin to quit. Many waved red Soviet flags and carried banners denouncing the government.

The protesters are furious over unfulfilled government promises to pay overdue wages and benefits.

In Asia, which remains largely Communist, people rallied to honor the working class.

In Beijing, Tianamen Square was filled with people celebrating model workers.

### Swedish prankster fined for tying up Florida lines

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — A teenager from Sweden will have to pay \$350 for wreaking havoc on emergency phone systems in Florida.

The 19-year-old hacker dialed into 11 emergency-service systems and tied up lines dedicated

for emergency calls. Swedish authorities say the teen was finally caught when he called one emergency switchboard claiming he had glued his genitals to the wall and needed help. The operator kept him on the phone long enough to trace the call to Sweden.

The prosecutor in the case is quoted by a Swedish news agency as saying he wanted to try the teen for the more serious crime of sabotage, but Swedish law limits that offense to crimes in Swedish territory.

### Aid worker says North Koreans stretch rations

BEIJING — North Koreans are so hungry they are grinding oak trees into powder to supplement meager rations.

A relief worker with the Caritas Agency is the latest to report on desperate conditions in the Communist north. Kathi Zellweger says she has made 10 trips to the isolated country and each time conditions grow worse.

This time she told of hungry children too weak to stand, hospitals that can't feed patients and other signs that mass starvation is approaching.

Officials in South Korea say the two Koreas will hold Red Cross talks in China this weekend to discuss food aid.

AP wire compiled by Norah West

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 Tuesday, May 6, 1997, 7-8:30pm  
 Whatcom Communications Center  
 620 Alabama Street

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# Assassin school draws protesters

By Lucy Kiem Kee  
The Western Front

"When I heard the screams of the children, and I knew which ones were mine. They were screaming 'mommy they're killing us!'"

This is how Rufina Amaya remembers Dec. 11, 1981 in her hometown of El Mozote, El Salvador in the movie "School of Assassins."

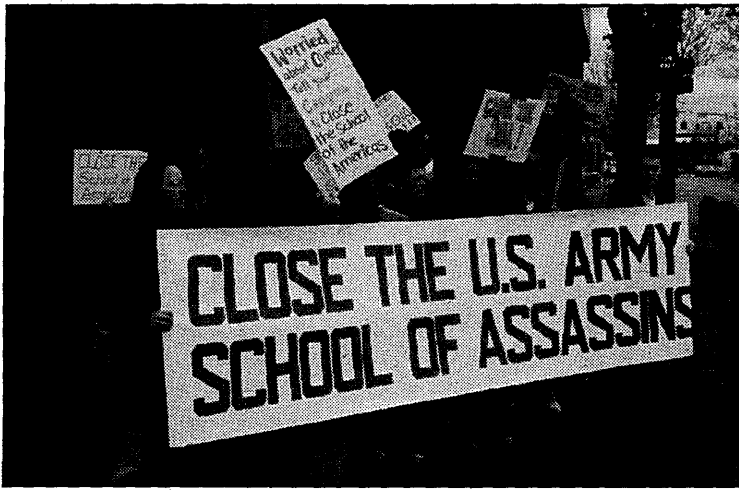
The above crime is just a sample of the grisly crimes committed or ordered by graduates of the U.S. Army School of the Americas based in Georgia.

"No more excuses, we're not standing for human rights abuses!" shouted a group of 17 Bellingham residents as they marched through the streets of downtown en route to Congressman Jack Metcalf's office in an effort to urge him to vote yes for HR 611, which would close the SOA.

According to the Pentagon, the mission of the SOA is to train Latin American militaries, promote professionalism in the armed forces, encourage cooperation among the armies of the United States and Latin America and to educate students about American customs and traditions.

The Pentagon has acknowledged that not only are the assassins responsible for the 1989 massacre in San Salvador, but thousands of soldiers like them have been trained at the taxpayers' expense.

Rep. Joseph Kennedy (D-Mass.) first brought the bill to Congress in 1992. Two failed attempts were made to pass the



Front/Ryan Hooser

Protesters demonstrate against the School of Assassins

bill. In a press conference in an attempt to gain more favorable votes for the bill, Kennedy said, "We don't want to be associated with people who torture and maim innocent people throughout Latin America. That is what this bill is about."

Erica Herrin, an organizer of the rally, shares a similar view.

"People can either choose to defend the tax dollar issue, or the moral issues ... I am defending more of the moral issues," Herrin said.

Herrin became involved with the SOA campaign through issues she learned about while working at the Peace Resource Center.

Congressman Jack Metcalf voted against the bill. A letter was mailed to Metcalf concerning the issue, yet he "was very random with his response," Herrin said. He gave no concrete reasoning as to why he did not support the bill.

Herrin, along with other volunteers and employees of the PRC, had an information table on vendor's row from April 21-25 to

hand out information packets and collect signatures for a petition urging Metcalf to support HR 611.

So far, Herrin has collected about 200 signatures and was to hand them to Metcalf personally following the rally on Wednesday, but Metcalf was not in the office at the time.

"School of Assassins" was shown following the rally Wednesday. The movie was nominated for a documentary short subject Academy Award and runs 18 minutes in length. It is narrated by Susan Sarandon and examines what it sees as the bloody and ruthless legacy of the School of Americas. "School of Assassins" real purpose is to motivate people to call their representatives to get behind Kennedy's bill to close the school down. Kennedy said they are not that far from having the votes to do that.

A second showing of the movie and additional petition signing sessions are being organized. Call 650-6125 for information.

## Students freely speak to several area lawyers

By Julia Paige Groce  
The Western Front

With the average attorney fees running at \$120 per hour, an opportunity for students to consult with community lawyers for free at Thursday's Law Day was truly welcome, said Legal Information Center Assistant Coordinator Julia Dunham.

The line to enter Viking Union 300 extended out the door as the legally curious awaited their own one-on-one conferences with area attorneys. Around 50 to 60 citizens took advantage of Western's Law Day location, Dunham estimates. With three to four lawyers available each hour, the process was quick.

"You'd be surprised what you can answer in five to 10 minutes," she said.

From landlord and tenant disputes to family issues of divorce and child custody, the questions

from potential clients were varied. One of the lawyers at the event, personal defense attorney Bret Simmons, said, "I had a lady with an ant problem in the house she'd rented, and she was wondering what she should do."

"Western students are smart enough to do the research, but we can help figure it out more quickly," attorney John Kamrar said. "Sometimes the answers are not obvious." Kamrar extends his services by giving free consultations to Western students all year.

Western has been involved with Law Day since 1992. Legal Information Center volunteers helped organize the event. Mike Post van der Burg is a political science major thinking of going into law. Meeting with attorneys is valuable for students because they "just moved out and they're a little naive of what their rights are and more susceptible to the authority point of view," he said.

## Western honors 'World Mosaic'

By Steven Uhles  
The Western Front

As the world grows smaller, and social groups come in closer contact with each other, people will need to learn how to live in a diverse, multicultural society. The quest for this understanding is the idea behind Western's first Diversity Day.

Diversity Day, touted as the "Celebration of a World Mosaic" and sponsored by the Western Associated Students Diversity Task Force, will take place Saturday May 3.

The event kicks off at 11 a.m. with a march from City Hall to Red Square sponsored by Hands Off Washington. A shuttle service from the 'C' parking lots to City Hall will be available. Parking in these lots will be free.

Diversity Day will begin at noon with at Old Main.

"The focus is on youth," said Shane Bunda, AS vice president of diversity. "The world is changing and we need to teach our children for the future."

Organizers have attempted to line up a variety of performers, booths and lecturers. Scheduled to appear are the Lion and The Islanders Steel Band, street performer Tom Dunn, belly dancers and hula dancers from Western's Hui O' Hawai'i. Local bands Pacer, Shed and Hanger 19 are slated as well.

Also, the Asian Pacific Islander Student Union will present a fashion show of Asian/Pacific costumes. The

Movimiento Estudiantil Chicanos de Aztlán, or MEChA, will sponsor a program of Latino music.

A Jobs for Youth forum, featuring a video presentation and discussion, will take place at 1 p.m. in Fraser Hall. Also, the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Alliance will present a program by speaker Janice Van Cleve at 1 p.m. in Miller Hall.

Various campus groups plan to set up information booths for Diversity Day. Among these are the Child Development Center, the Center for Educational Pluralism, Hui O' Hawai'i, the Korean American Student Association, the Peace Resource Center, MEChA and representatives from the women studies program.

Organizers also expect groups from the local community. The Evergreen AIDS Foundation, Whatcom Crisis Center, Whatcom Human Rights Task Force

*We hope what this event will say is we believe in this and we want action taken.*

*— Shane Bunda, AS VP of Diversity*

and the Whatcom Volunteer Center may attend.

Bunda predicts the big draw will be Midnight Voices, a musical collective out of San Francisco. The group, which features Mohammed from MTV's "The Real World" will play at 6:30 p.m. in Red Square.

"I think people want to see something done about diversity," Bunda said. "Right now there's a lot of talk, a lot of things on paper. We hope what this event will say is we believe in this and we want action taken."

## Cage, from page 1

space?" Knutzen asked. "The priority for usage is academic. It's not a student space."

She added that since Parberry was formed in 1991, students were permitted to use the Cage only when it was not in use for classes or labs.

Knutzen expressed concern that the AS may have passed the resolution without fully understanding the use priorities in Carver.

The decision to expand Parberry, she said, was based on academic issues and improving the space and was not an attempt to "cut students out" of using the facility.

The AS resolution demands, however, that appropriate feedback and governance processes be taken on issues impacting students, noting that a change of this magnitude to students should be reviewed by the official student governing body, the AS Board of Directors.

"I see this as a big student

issue," said AS President Leslie Keller, "because ... it's a loss of recreational space on campus, and we all know that there's not much recreational space on campus. We need to maintain and create more, not keep closing it up."

The resolution moves that the university continue efforts to increase recreational space on campus and maintain the proposal for a new multi-recreational building as a top priority in the Western Capital Plan as a replacement for the Cage, since the Cage was the only charge-free facility on campus open to the entire student body, faculty and staff.

In comparison with state peer institutions, the resolution adds, Western has inadequate facilities available for recreational use by students.

Student Activities Director Jack Smith illustrated the fact with statistics regarding the ratio of square footage of recreational

space per student at Western compared to Eastern Washington University.

Western has 17 square feet per student, whereas Eastern has nearly 40 square feet per student, Smith said.

Knutzen agrees with the AS that Western is in desperate need of more recreational space.

If about \$150,000 per year was somehow budgeted by the university for the maintenance of Parberry, she explained, it would most likely not be necessary to charge a student usage fee for the facility.

"I look forward to working with the students," Knutzen added. "We all have to be together on this if we want to work towards building a new facility."

Keller said the next step for the AS is to speak with PEHR, the athletic department and Campus Recreation in order to compromise on a solution. A public forum has not yet been scheduled.

# Veteran Western actors "flip" for producer roles

By Todd Wanke  
The Western Front

From producers Joseph Goodrich and Paul Mendenhall comes a new one-act musical "Flip of a Coin" to be staged at 8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday in Western's Performing Arts Center Concert Hall. Donations will be accepted at the door to benefit Friends of the Music Library.

"Flip of a Coin" is performed by three vocal performance majors from Western, and Michael Dunlap, a former Western student who is a composer as well as a performer. He recently appeared in the Bellingham Theater Guild production of "Rehearsal for Murder."

Cast members Julie Reiber, Mike Cook, Jessica Israels and Dunlap have all worked together before on Western's stage.

Goodrich, a former Western

student and now a voice instructor at Temple University in Philadelphia, has flown back to Bellingham specifically for "Flip of a Coin."

The story, which is based on the Brother's Grimm fable, "The Bird, the Mouse and the Sausage" is a musical tale of three unlikely friends who find happiness, and also many woes in living together, Goodrich said. Beside taking on the role of performer, "Jessica has pretty much been the musical director, and part-time producer since I've been at Temple," Goodrich said.

Israels, who was the winner of Western's 1995 Concerto Competition, said Reiber is "hilarious in 'Flip of a Coin' and her performance is something you don't want to miss."

"Flip of a Coin" came together when Goodrich received lyrics from Mendenhall set to a popular Christmas carol that caught

his attention.

Goodrich kept the idea of a musical warm, and when he was reunited with his long-time friend Israels earlier this year, it was decided that "Flip of a Coin" would be the musical they would put on, Goodrich said.

Goodrich said this is one of Mendenhall's first major performance pieces, but he is a natural lyricist, and his unique style of rhyming is sure to catch the audience's attention.

However, Goodrich is no stranger to the stage. His first work, "Legacy Theater," was written when he was 16 years old and played at the Seattle's Moore Theater for eight weeks.

Since then, Goodrich has produced many successful pieces including an off-Broadway musical, "Out of the Blues," which played at the Miranda Theater in New York City in 1996.

Musically, we can expect many different styles, Israels said, including jazz, blues, funk and a Gilbert and Sullivan Operetta, "that will look great," Goodrich said.

Although the musical does contain a dark side, which is typical of Brother's Grimm fables, the story definitely has its comical edge. "After all, a guy does play a sausage!" Goodrich said.

Reiber has played lead roles in such shows as "Angry Housewives", "The Marriage of Figaro" and "Grease." Cook and Israels have appeared in "The Marriage of Figaro" and "Guys and Dolls."

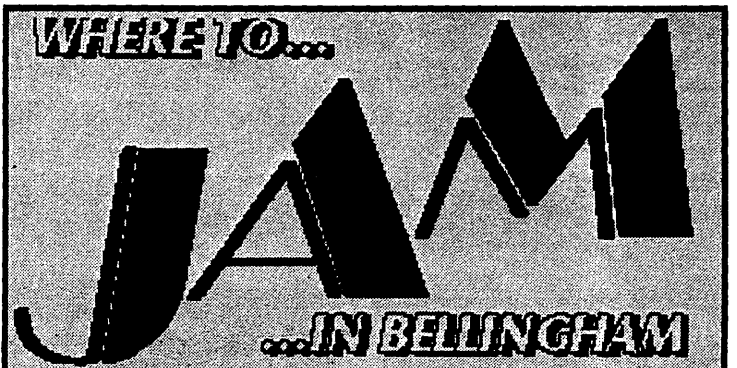
Both Israels and Goodrich pointed to the vital role Western's Music Library has played in producing "Flip of a Coin."

"Without it, the show simply wouldn't be going on," Goodrich said. The music library is free of charge to all Western students. It features a CD listening station, music scores and books about music and musicians.



Front/Christopher Luczyk

"Flip of a Coin" actors share a smile during dress rehearsal.



## Viking Union Main Lounge

Sat: Cinco de Mayo Dance  
with DJ Ismael Tamayo 7 p.m. \$5

## Fraser Hall 4

Sun: "Mother" 7 & 9 p.m. Free  
with Debbie Reynolds

## The 3-B Tavern

Fri: Zeke, REO Speedealers  
and The Penners 9 p.m. \$5  
Sat: Tube Top, MK Ultra  
and Pinwheel 9 p.m. \$5  
Mon: Two-player pinball  
tournament 7 p.m. \$10

## The Cosmos Cafe

Fri: Supersonic Soul Pimps 9 p.m. \$5  
Sat: DJ Big-In-Da-Panz 9 p.m. \$1

## The Royal Room

Fri: Top 40 music 9 p.m. Free  
Sat: Top 40 music 9 p.m. with  
Sun: Top 40 music 9 p.m. Student  
Mon: Cinco de Mayo party 9 p.m. ID

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## ¿La nueva Cantina Qué Pasa?

### Servers say 'sí' to cocktails in time for sunshine

By Arvid Hokanson

The Western Front

Casa Qué Pasa, known for its large portions of cheap Mexican food, has opened up its new cantina just in time for Cinco de Mayo and the coming summer months.

When asked how the new Casa Qué Pasa cantina was conceived, owner Travis Holland said, "Bellingham needed a funky place to have good drinks. Nobody's offering innovative things with drinks."

Patrons of Casa Qué Pasa's cantina at 1415 Railroad Ave. can find a new, cantina-only menu, emphasizing traditional South American and Cuban cuisine.

Executive Chef Derrick Snyder recommends the Chipolte Steak Sandwich, as well as the Red Chili Enchiladas. The menu also features items for those with vegan or vegetarian preferences, including the Vegan Mixed Grill.

The all-ages cantina also features a new drink menu. Drinks range from a piña colada and the house special long island iced tea to margaritas.

Holland said the margaritas went through rigorous testing before being placed on the menu and are the signature's of the new drink menu. Local residents may find the Mo Beta Banana Margarita enticing.

The character of the cantina definitely provides a contrast to the front-area taqueria. The cantina, including its lunch counter, seats 41 with plenty of

elbow room.

Hardwood floors, green booths, painted tables and paintings on the wall form the surroundings of the cantina.

The tables were painted by a local artist and feature Bellingham landmarks, as well as a Southwestern theme.

Holland said curious diners should visit the cantina and have a one or two-hour dinner, enjoying the food and ambiance.



Front/Arvid Hokanson  
Diners Linda Sutherland and Beth Bayliss  
soak up the atmosphere at Casa Qué Pasa.

## Actividades para Cinco de Mayo

### Music, marches and amusement in May

By Meredith Lofberg

The Western Front

In less than a week, students all across campus will be celebrating a little known and often misunderstood holiday — Cinco de Mayo.

Many people believe that the holiday is just another excuse to down some Cuervo and get crazy. Others erroneously think that May 5 is Mexico's independence day. Cinco de Mayo actually commemorates the Battle of Puebla, in which the Mexican army defeated a better equipped French army.

The date came to memorialize Mexican unity and patriotism. For Chicanos and Latinos, Cinco de Mayo is much more than a reason to party.

"For Chicano and Latino students, it is about our strength as a people," said Brandy Smith, president of Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Atlanza (MEChA), a campus Latino and Chicano group.

The festivities will kickoff with a Cinco de Mayo dance at 9 p.m. Saturday in the Viking Union Main Lounge. Fiesta-craivin' people can dance to the sounds of deejay Ismael Tamayo and sip mocktails. Tickets are \$5 for students and \$7 general for the dance sponsored by MEChA.

According to Smith, the dance isn't only for those of Latino and Chicano heritage.

"You don't have to know how to do traditional dances to come. It's good music, and it will be a good time," Smith said.

MEChA is a nationwide organization formed in 1969 to provide support for Chicano and Latino students. Western's chapter does community service work both on and off campus. This year, the group has focused on working with young people of Latino and Chicano heritage and emphasizing the importance of an education. MEChA attended a youth conference in February and has been mentoring high school students throughout the year.

Another campus group, the Cesar E. Chavez Organization of Labor Solidarity, will also be part of the Cinco de Mayo celebrations. Members of CESAR will travel to Burlington, Wash. on Sunday

to participate in the 9th Annual Farm Worker Solidarity March.

A United Farm Worker organizer named Esquivel and his family founded the march in 1989 to celebrate generations of workers in the Skagit Valley and to lend support to workers organizing for union contracts.

Esquivel passed away two years ago, but the march has continued. During the walk, participants stop at the cemetery where Esquivel is buried to observe a moment of silence for the march's founder.

The march will begin at 11 a.m. at Burlington's Maiben Park, and participants will walk for approximately four and a half miles to Skagit Valley College in Mount Vernon, Wash.

In past years, the march has attracted between 400 and 700 participants.

Erin Sheldon-Reyes, a founder of CESAR, sees the march as being an important inclusion in Cinco de Mayo activities.

"It is a way of not just celebrating but making demands and affirming that farm labor is a profession to be proud of: Farm labor is vital, both in making our region wealthy and in putting food on our tables," she said.

Many farm workers refrain from participating in the march, afraid of raids by local Immigration and Naturalization Service agents, Sheldon-Reyes said.

Once they reach Skagit Valley College, marchers will enjoy a feast prepared by march organizers and their families.

The feast is a way of "extending Mexican hospitality and giving back to the farm workers for the food that they give to us," Sheldon-Reyes said.

Students have a chance to learn more about Cinco de Mayo on Monday during a presentation of the video "500 years of Chicano History" from 10 a.m. to noon in the Wilson Library Presentation Room. A discussion will follow.

On Saturday May 17, Dr. Loco's Rockin' Jalapeño Band will perform in the Seattle Center Exhibition Hall. Tickets are \$20. Call MEChA at 650-7275 for more information.

Cinco

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Tecate:	Hagg \$4.6
Negra Modelo:	\$5.9
Dos Equis:	\$5.4
Corona:	\$5.9
Pacifico Clara:	\$5.2
Bohemia:	N/A

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alcohol-free. Bandito's Bu  
offering FREE fountain d  
on Monday, May 5 in rec

CA REDEN

# Dos Padres 'infuses' food, fiesta

By Katie Johnson  
The Western Front

If you're looking for a place for Cinco de Mayo festivities, set your sights on Fairhaven.

Dos Padres, a local Mexican restaurant and cantina, will start the food cooking and the liquor running today at noon. The fiesta will run until Tuesday morning, which gives party-goers plenty of time to take in the revelry. Dos Padres, which first opened its doors on Jan. 3, 1974 at 1111 Harris Ave., will provide patrons with discounted menu items and a variety of drink specials.

In celebration of Cinco de Mayo, Dos Padres is offering a unique alcoholic specialty. "Fruit Infusion," a shot-sized cocktail, which has similar characteristics to a tequila spodi.

A combination of Patron Tequila, Triple Sec and

fresh fruit, the drink is marinated in a medium-sized jug, accessed by a tap.

For \$4, customers receive this shot of Fruit Infusion in a Patron shot glass (for customers to take home). Patron Tequila T-shirts will be selling for \$5.

Friday thru Monday, Dos Padres will also be serving \$3.25 house margaritas, ranging in flavors from strawberry-banana to watermelon. Its homemade sangría, a blood-red blend of wines and fruit, is \$2.95 a glass or \$7.95 for the pitcher.

Customers can also order a six-pack of 7-ounce bottles of Corona, brought to your table in an iced-bucket, with a pay-for-what-you-drink charge. Inside the cantina eight beers are on tap, including the non-Mexican trio of Alaskan Amber, Black Butte Porter and Orchard Street Golden Ale.

With a large assortment of tequilas, Dos Padres is always changing and adding to their selection. As of now they have 13 different tequilas. Prices range from \$12.50 per shot for Porfidio Blue Agave and \$3 per shot for Cuervo Gold.

"We have the largest selection of the best tequila north of Seattle," owner Jim Altman said.

If you're unsure about the different types of tequilas, try their Tequila Sampler.

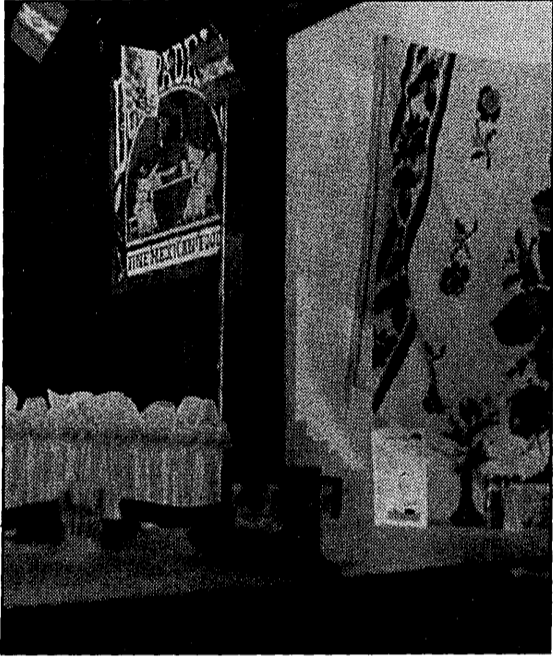
The sampler allows customers to enjoy the various tequilas offered by Dos Padres.

After ordering the sampler, customers receive a full shot of either Pancho Villa or Cuervo Gold, and two three-quarter shots of your choice from eight tequilas, ranging from Mexcal to Patron Gold.

Even if alcohol is not your drink of choice or you still have not reached the 21 mark, Dos Padres has a multitude of non-alcoholic beverages, and a lengthy menu of entrees and appetizers.

If your Big Blue Bonus Books are still around, Dos Padres has two coupons to discount the menu price on selected items.

The restaurant is open daily from 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. The cantina is open from 11:30 a.m. - midnight with happy hour from 3 to 6 p.m. everyday.



File Photo

Dos Padres, a Fairhaven institution for 23 years, offers authentic Mexican hospitality.

# May 5 means more than tacos

## Cinco de Mayo holiday commemorates historic battle

By Tammy Sue Clarke  
The Western Front

NEWS FLASH — Cinco de Mayo is not some Mexican holiday created simply so people would have an excuse to go out and party.

What? It's not about tequila and tacos?

No, it's not.

And it's not Mexico's independence day either.

OK, so now some people are really confused. If it isn't just a day to party, and if it isn't Mexico's independence day, then what the hell is it?!

Here is your history lesson for the day, or maybe the quarter or even the rest of your college career. It is entitled "The Story of Cinco de Mayo" — fairytale style.

Once upon a time, in the year 1862, President Benito Juarez lived in the country of turmoil, better known as Mexico. Juarez, a liberal, issued several reforms that made the conservatives angry.

Under Juarez's rule, Mexico was torn between the liberals (who favored a democratic government and the end of the Catholic church's rule, and the conservatives (who supported the church and who prospered under Spanish rule).

Now, President Juarez's country was in debt to several countries, but Mexico was bankrupt. No money was left to pay the land up north (America), and the lands across the sea (France, England and Spain). So Juarez proclaimed that all payments to those lands would not be paid for two years, afterward payments would begin again and all would be well in the land of turmoil.

This angered the leaders across the sea. So Napoleon III of France, the nephew of the infamous general, was persuaded to come to the aid of the

exiled conservatives. The evil Napoleon saw this as an opportunity to gain a second empire for France.

In 1862 French troops seized the city of Vera Cruz and became a menace to Juarez and all of Mexico.

Now, the story of our hero, Gen. Ignacio Zaragoza. The Texas-born general arrived to block France's attack at the city of Puebla. Puebla was a small town with poor farmers and the people of the village were forced to form their own army.

The invading French Gen. Charles Latrille Laurencez led the assault on Puebla up the steep hill of Cerro de Guadalupe. The farmers, with very few guns and ammunition, warded off the French.

Gen. Laurencez, after losing about 1,000 men, retreated with his band of attackers to the coast.

The Mexicans were victorious, and the day was to be celebrated across the land. In honor of the hero, the city was renamed Puebla de Zaragoza. What a glorious day!

The power and bravery of the Mexican people would be remembered forever in the Battle of Puebla. The French retook Puebla and began a reign of imperial occupation all over again, but that is another fairytale.

Until the day Mexico was reclaimed by France, peoples' courage and strength against the French spread across the lands. All were to remember this day of liberty.

The day of May 5.

Thus ends this tale of the heroism of the Mexican people.

This Cinco de Mayo when you are about to crack open a Corona to celebrate and someone asks you what this day is all about, remember this historic tale and toast to the courage of the patriots who fought for their country and heritage not so long ago.

e mayo

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ose wanting to celebrate  
s at 120 W. Holly will be  
s (with a food purchase)  
ion of Cinco de Mayo!!!

ION VALUE



# Talking trash puts golf behind times

## Fuzzy Zoeller evokes tension on PGA Tour with racial slur

COMMENTARY



Fred Sheffield

For those of us who weren't alive 50 years ago, the significance of Jackie Robinson breaking the color barrier in 1947 may seem like something that only could have

happened in a far and distant time.

Indeed, life in 1947 was much different than it is now.

Yet in our politically correct and multiculturally aware society, there remains a time machine providing express service to the late 1940s. Just turn on your television and immerse yourself in the world of professional golf.

Like the Austin Powers of sports, golf has found a way to remain frozen in the past. Tiger Woods' blistering performance at the Masters two weeks ago may have melted a portion of golf's time-resistant facade, but it is clear the

sport is waking up from a very long nap.

As the facade melted, the first thing America saw was the face of long-time professional golfer Fuzzy Zoeller. Beneath an oak tree at Augusta National (an exclusively white club until a few years ago), Zoeller referred to Woods as "a little boy" who should avoid ordering fried chicken, collard greens "or whatever the hell those people eat" at next year's banquet.

Zoeller has since apologized and explained the remark was only made in jest. How many athletes in other sports tell racist jokes to the media? Plenty, if you're talking about athletes that live in 1947.

Even if Zoeller's joke was made with the best of intentions, he came off as a guy who just stepped out of a time capsule; trying to sound funny, instead sounding like an idiot.

To watch Woods triumphantly stroll up to the 18th green among legions of his fans might lead one to believe Woods' road to success was easier than Robinson's.

Though Woods may live in the post Civil Rights era, he plays a sport that minorities have been excluded from — just as Robinson did 50 years ago. Growing up as a minority on the golf course, Tiger experienced the same looks and name calling Robinson dealt with in 1947.

"It's something a white person could never understand," Woods said.

Today all-white golf clubs exist all over the country. Even on public courses, minorities are scarce. In 1997, golf is still a white person's sport. Tiger Woods may be ready to change the face of the sport, but does the sport really want to be changed?

The sport of golf, more than any other, is based on prestige and tradition. Unfortunately, golf has dragged something into its present that should have stayed in the past.

If golf is to continue its rapid growth rate among people of all races, it will have to wake itself in a time period much different than the one it fell asleep in, and look good doing it. Every bit of sleepy dust will cost them.

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# 'Supes' test Seattle sports fan's loyalty

COMMENTARY



Todd Wanke

If the Seattle Sonics were a rollercoaster ride, they'd have to give all of the passengers vomit bags due to the twists and turns they've put us through this season.

Don't get me wrong, I'm a huge 'Supes' fan, but with all of the negative aspects that perennially surround the team, it's hard to have anything but a love-hate relationship.

One of the first off-key notes the Sonics hit was getting trounced by the Houston Rockets on national television, three days

before the playoffs started. Before that happened we had to deal with the fact that most games, if the opposition was halfway decent, were on pay-per-view. How are we supposed to get pumped up for our team when all we see is the "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" show when we do finally get to see them play on a regular basis?

After last Friday's game I was nauseated. On Sunday, I couldn't stop jabbering about the thrashing the Sonics instilled on Phoenix. Tuesday, I had to make sure I didn't listen to any dark music after the game for fear of going over the edge.

If you want to get really mad, flip to NBC during a nationally televised weekend game of the Sonics. Here you'll find the slanted fountain of basketball knowl-

edge known as Bill Walton. If you watch the entire broadcast you may be reprogrammed to believe that the Sonics really are a second rate team that are lucky to be in the playoffs in the first place.

The real problem is a lack of communication. The Sonics just haven't been able to get in sync lately. Too many negatives didn't get addressed early this season lead to an unstoppable snowball rolling right over the team.

I know it seems like the Sonics always get the short end of the stick when it comes to fouls being called, but they can't let that affect their mental toughness.

The Sonics' woes are similar to the dreary Northwest weather that we're experiencing this spring. One day it's blue skies forever, and the next, it's raining on our

parade.

The biggest Sonic problem is the resuscitation of Shawn Kemp, who has thankfully come back to life. Sure Kemp is mad about Jim McIlvaine snagging some of his loot. Does this surprise anyone? Kemp is just out to get what he feels he deserves along with the rest of the greedy overpaid superstars in the league. Is that so wrong?

I agree that salaries are way out of hand in professional sports, but if the Sonics gave Kemp the money he deserves, I feel he'd be further inspired to take a leadership role.

This is something everyone watching the Sonics has hoped for in the last five seasons, only to see it delayed once more by a pouting Kemp for a good part of the season. It's reasonable to

believe that Kemp doesn't want to bellyache and say publicly that he wants more money because he has pride. He doesn't want to look like the jackass of the league.

McIlvaine is a good player, but his lack of speed has made him obsolete in many games this year. This is an issue the Sonics should've thought about before signing him to a \$33 million contract.

Instead, in the early stages of building this team the Sonics organization was worrying about how big of a key to put on the outside of their new arena — typical.

At this point the hardcore Seattle sports fans might be better off watching Ken Griffey Jr. knock homers out of the Kingdome.

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# Frontline

## AS elections devolve into fiasco of petty complaints

"Let's stop this grievance bullshit."

These words were uttered by AS Vice President-elect of External Affairs Jesse Salomon and repeated by former candidate Alfonso Marsh as they filed grievance after grievance against each other. They obviously didn't cut the bullshit because the few people in the room had to listen as the complaints got more and more petty.

At one point during the seven complaints, Salomon defined the word bullshit. Well, Jesse, if you look up bullshit in my dictionary, you will find a transcript of that post-election meeting.

The first complaint was brought by Marsh. Salomon and Marsh had agreed to quit campaigning at 6 p.m., and Salomon continued campaigning until the polls closed. The two degenerated into juvenile bickering after Salomon said he had told Marsh he would continue campaigning. Marsh also claimed that Salomon misrepresented himself by saying he was endorsed by Deputy Chief of Staff to Seattle Mayor Norm Rice. Marsh found that this position doesn't truly exist, and Salomon was endorsed by a special assistant to Rice. Salomon claims he was told these titles were interchangeable. So, once again, a difference of semantics led to wasted time.

Salomon claimed that Genevieve Panush and Marsh had made a secret pact, agreeing that the losing person would throw their support to the other, to keep Salomon from winning. In his second complaint, he said that Marsh was "bribing" students by handing out candy with his campaign flyers. He also said it was improper for Marsh to be distributing these while schleping candy at the Viking Union candy counter. Somehow, he thinks this is an endorsement by the university. Salomon also complained about Marsh having too many posters up. How petty can you get?

Panush also threw her hat into the ring with two complaints, even though she was voted out of the race more than a week ago. She complained that Salomon had posted election materials at Delta without permission, damaging the paint. Also, she said that Salomon used \$10 worth of paint and paper without paying for it. All she succeeded in was making herself look like a sore loser.

Both candidates admitted to having committed some of the petty infractions, but felt they hadn't done anything in malice. Well, your many complaints were malicious. It doesn't matter if they hurt each other or not, they hurt the student body with their childish fighting. They detracted from the question of who is qualified for the job. I still don't know if either is. But I do know that they are excellent at bitching and moaning.

Honestly, I don't know the outcome of the grievances, and I don't care. I was so disgusted by the way the candidates carried themselves that I left before they reached a decision. I'd already seen that neither candidate was qualified to be vice president of anything more important than a preschool sandbox.

— Kristen Paulson, News editor

## The Western Front

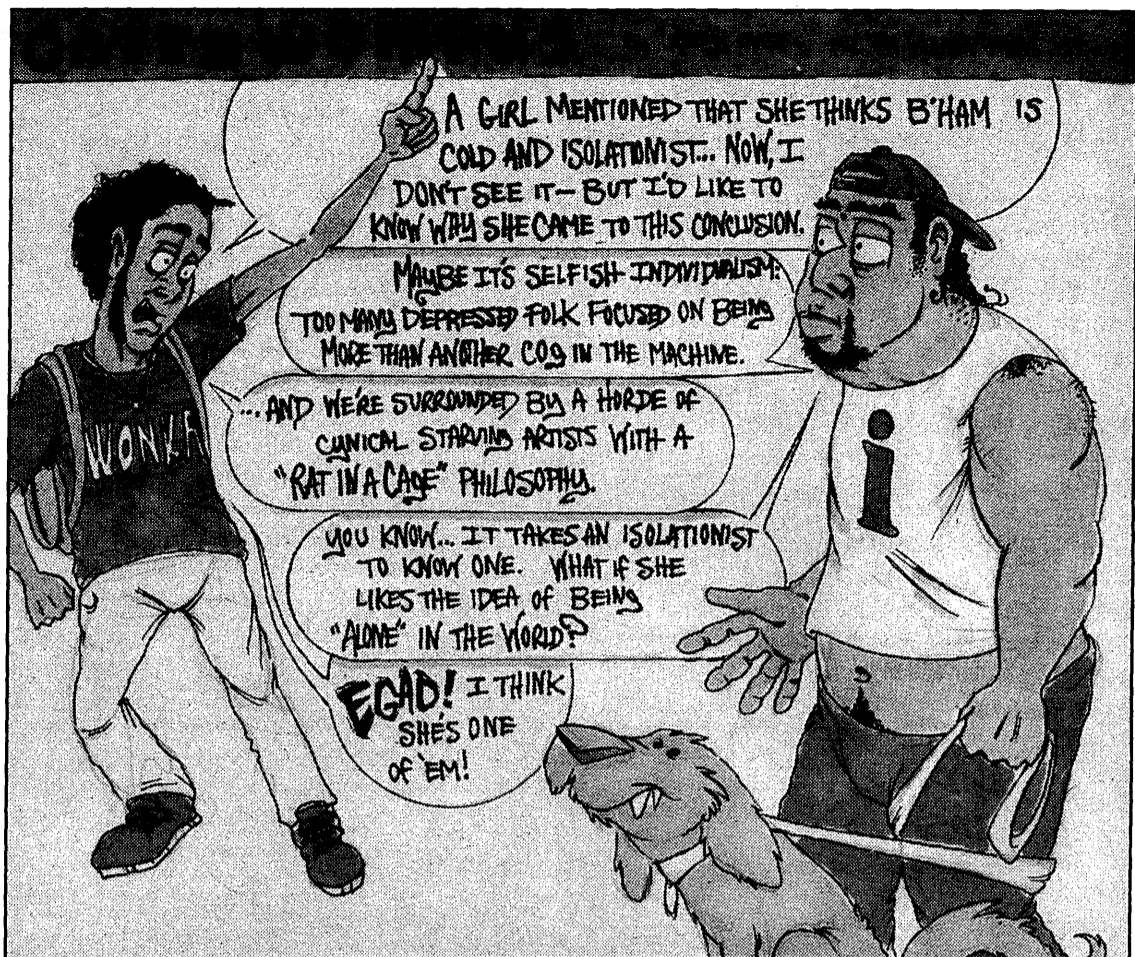
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Send all written submissions to: The Western Front, College Hall 09, Western Washington University, Bellingham WA 98225. Direct advertising inquiries to the business office in College Hall 07, or call (360) 650-3161.



## Talk shows promote stereotypes Many share blame for this idiotic form of entertainment

### COMMENTARY



Naomi Dillon

Occasionally, when nothing else interesting is on television, I will tune in for a few minutes to a talk show.

Although its raunchiness and attention to the trivial often offends me, I can put that aside and take it for what it's worth — pure stupidity.

Lately, I have avoided certain shows because of a recurring theme I have been unable to ignore because of its blatancy.

Have you ever noticed that a large percentage of the guests appearing on these shows are ethnic minorities?

And they are always on when the shows' topics are:

"I slept with five different men and now I don't know who the father of my baby is!" or "Girl, you're pregnant now and you need to stop sleeping around!"

Minorities are consistently portrayed as promiscuous, petty, irresponsible, loud people. Their lives seem to consist of having sex, smoking weed and getting in trouble with the law.

As if the topics aren't degrading enough, the guests, as if on cue, do their best to degrade themselves by acting inappropri-

ately, and if I may be so blunt as to say, ignorant!

Seeing minorities play into this by presenting themselves as objects of disgust and ridicule by yelling profanities, getting into physical fights or just plain acting stupidly while on stage infuriates me to no end.

Titillation, voyeurism and the sense that "my life isn't so bad after all" are some of the reasons why people watch talk shows like "Ricki Lake" and "Jenny Jones."

*Even though I realize obnoxious people come from every race, the public — after being bombarded with so many negative images of minorities — will begin to see this as reality.*

However, the influence and impact these spectacle-driven shows have on the public can't be discounted.

Although these shows have no significant merit other than to entertain, an overwhelming amount of people view them as being real and factual.

This disturbs me.

Even though I realize obnoxious people come from every race, the public — after being bombarded with so many negative images of minorities — will

begin to see this as reality.

Have a show about white trash and most people will know to make the distinction between them and the general public. They obviously do not represent all white people.

But for some unexplained reason, this realization doesn't occur when applied to ethnic minorities, which makes negative portrayals of them on talk shows all the more harmful.

Who is to blame?

I blame everyone. I blame the individuals who, knowing the topic, still choose to appear on these shows. I blame the producers of the shows, who consistently choose topics that debase and negatively portray minorities, very rarely creating a panel of minorities who have achieved success, done heroic deeds or made a

difference in their community. I blame the advertisers who sponsor these tasteless, insignificant and potentially detrimental programs. And lastly, I blame the viewers for putting up with this trash and unfailingly tuning in each and every day.

It's a collaborative effort, and it needs to stop somewhere. So begin by boycotting the shows and their sponsors.

This may seem a little extreme, but sometimes it takes extreme measures to bring about change.

### Letters Policy

The Western Front accepts submissions up to 250 words on any topic. We reserve the right to edit for style, grammar, punctuation, spelling and libelous content. Letters must be typed and signed and include a phone number for verification purposes.

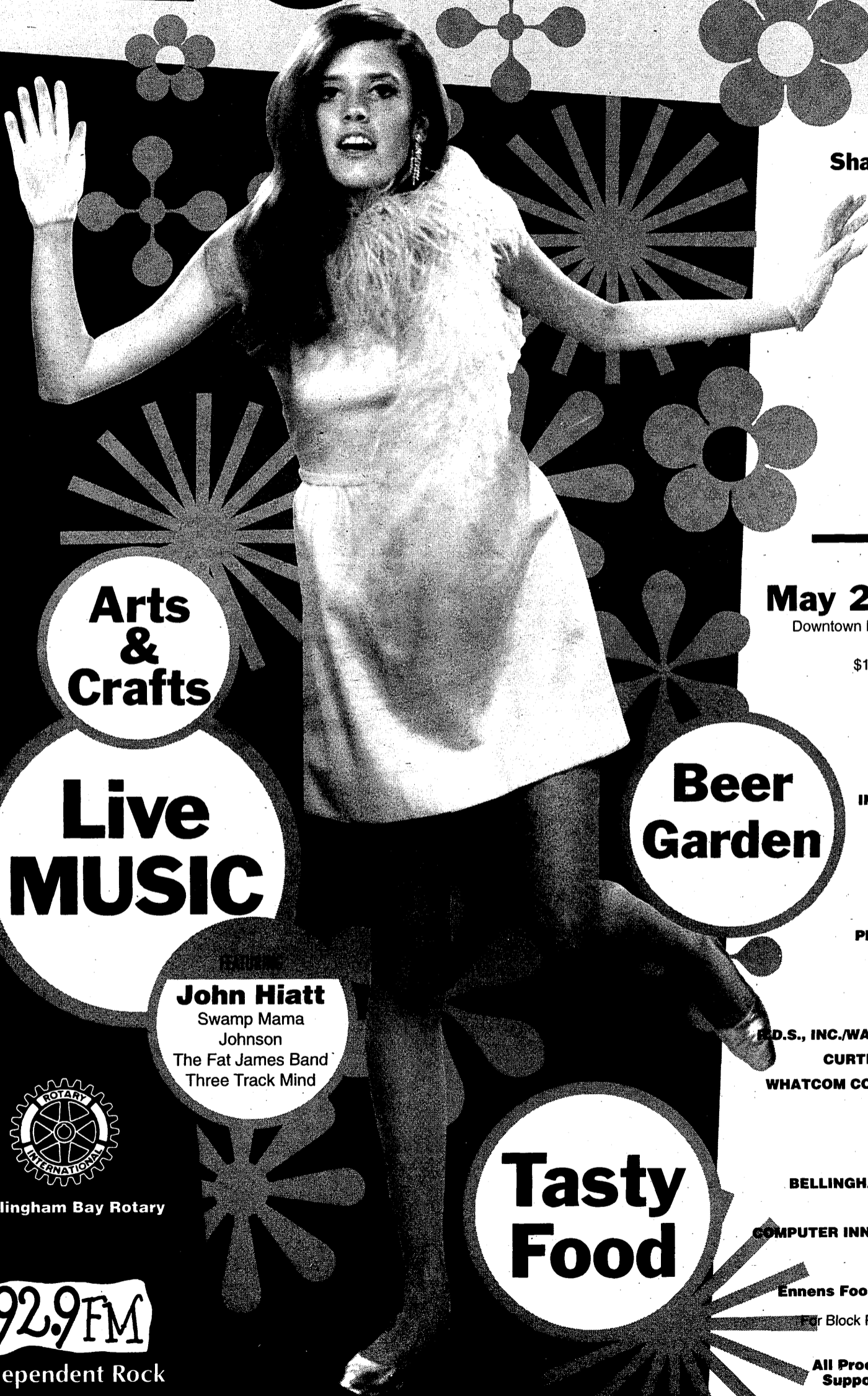
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